



Auto Tour Guide

Manzanar National Historic Site was established in 1992 to provide for the protection and interpretation of historic, cultural and natural resources associated with the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II.

While driving this one-way auto tour, imagine what it might have been like to live within a square-mile barbed wire enclosure, under the watchful eyes of armed guards. Stop occasionally and walk around the site. Along the way, you'll learn about other facets of the area's history, including the ranching and farming community of Manzanar (1910 - 1934).



Library of Congress photo



In February 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, empowering the Secretary of War to relocate nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans from their west coast homes to one of ten War Relocation Centers. With only the possessions that would fit into two suitcases, 11,061 men, women and children (approximately two-thirds of whom where U.S. citizens) were relocated to Manzanar War Relocation Center between 1942 and 1945. A barbed wire fence enclosed the 500-acre living area, which consisted of 36 blocks of wooden barracks. Outlying areas were used for agriculture, a hog farm, a reservoir and a sewage treatment plant.

Auto Tour

(see map on back)

- 1

Entrance Stonemason-internee Ryozo Kado built the military sentry post and internal police post in 1942.
- 2

Police Station Internees gathered here December 6, 1942, to protest the jailing of Harry Ueno. Two internees were killed and ten were wounded when military police fired upon the crowd.
- 3

Newspaper Office Internees published the *Manzanar Free Press* in Building 1 in the southeast corner of this block. The newspaper was self-supporting through subscriptions and advertising.
- 4

Administrative Section The director's residence, staff apartments, post office, and administrative offices were located here.
- 5

Bachelor's Block Residents included about 100 Japanese American volunteers who came to Manzanar in March 1942 to help build the center. They stayed in Block 2.
- 6

Manzanar High School The school, located here in Block 7, opened in October 1942 and graduated classes in 1943, 1944 and 1945.
- 7

Auditorium Constructed by internees in 1944, this building housed a gymnasium and a stage for plays, graduation ceremonies, and other social functions.
- 8

Fire Department The fire department, in the center of Block 13 near A Street, responded to occasional fires caused by short circuits and kitchen mishaps.
- 9

South Firebreak Tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts were located in this area, one of two east-west firebreaks.
- 10

Typical Block Building locations in Block 14 are marked to illustrate the layout of a typical block. The National Park Service plans to restore some buildings to this block.
- 11

Photographer's Quarters Toyo Miyatake, a professional photographer from Los Angeles, lived with his family in Block 20. He smuggled a camera lens into the camp but eventually was allowed to document daily life.
- 12

Homestead The Kemp/Lenbeck Farm was located near the locust trees in the early 1900s.
- 13

Baseball Fields Two of the larger baseball fields were situated here in the North Firebreak between Blocks 19 and 25.
- 14

Catholic Church Roman Catholic internees attended services in the Block 25 Recreation Building.
- 15

Manzanar Town Site The center of the town of Manzanar, established in 1910, was 350 yards to the east. The town had about 25 homes in the mid-1920s, when Los Angeles was purchasing water rights in the area.
- 16

Shepherd Ranch In the late 1800s John Shepherd raised cattle, horses, mules, and grain here. George Chaffey purchased Shepherd's holdings in 1910, established the town of Manzanar, and promoted the growing of apples.
- 17

Orchards South of the tour road are more than 100 fruit trees planted by Chaffey's Owens Valley Improvement Company about 1910.
- 18

Garden Immediately south of the tour road at H Street is Block 34's mess hall garden, one of the most sophisticated gardens in the relocation center.
- 19

Wilder Farm The R.A. Wilder homestead was located about 50 feet west of H Street in the early 1900s.

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Hospital Stone and concrete steps, a pond, and floor slabs of the hospital laundry, heating room, and morgue can be seen if you walk west of the tour road.
- 21

Children’s Village One hundred and one children of Japanese ancestry were housed in an orphanage 125 yards east of the tour road.
- 22

Cemetery Most of the 143 people who died at the relocation center were buried in their hometown cemeteries. Only 15 were buried here, and most of those remains have since been moved elsewhere by relatives. The inscription on the front of the memorial says “soul consoling tower.” The inscription on the back, on the right, reads “August 1943” and, on the left, “erected by the Manzanar Japanese.”
- 23

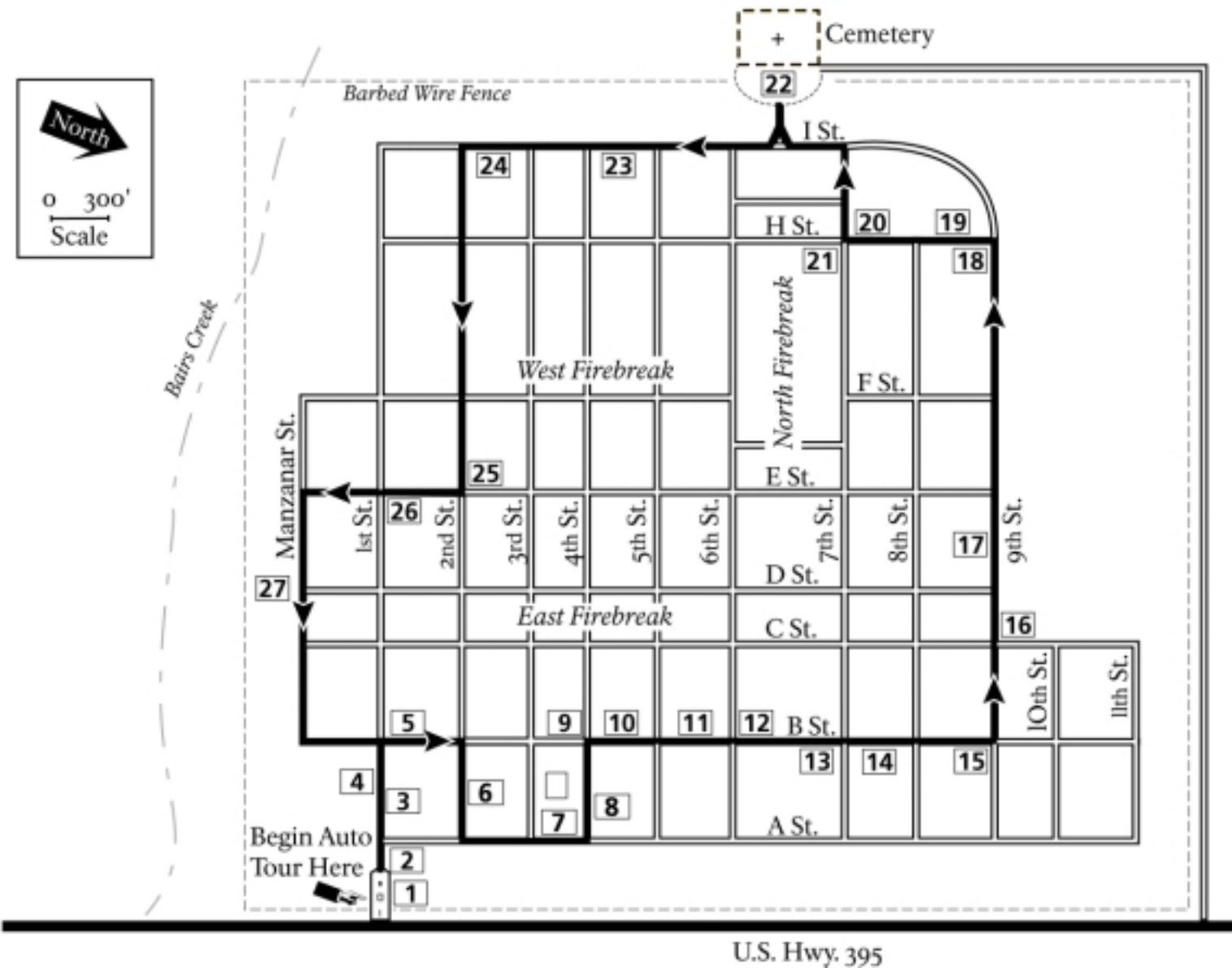
Buddhist Temple The largest of three Buddhist temples was located here. The other two were in Blocks 13 and 27.
- 24

Garden Evacuees in Block 12 built ponds and planted trees to improve the barren landscape.
- 25

Blocks 9 and 10 Some of the first evacuees, from Terminal Island near San Pedro, were housed here. They built an elaborate garden in Block 9.
- 26

Block 3 Two hundred and twenty-seven Japanese Americans from Bainbridge Island, near Seattle, arrived by train April 1, 1942, and lived in this block.
- 27

Net Factory Internees produced camouflage netting for the military in 1942 at a factory southwest of the intersection of D and Manzanar Streets.



Please “pardon our dust” as we adaptively restore the historic Manzanar High School Auditorium to serve as our interpretive center and park headquarters.

Watch for our opening in summer 2003!

Your National Park

For your safety and for the sake of preserving the park’s resources, drive only on the designated one-way tour road. All other streets are closed to vehicle traffic.

Do not disturb or collect any objects or resources in the park. Hunting or camping at Manzanar is illegal.

For more information, please call 790-878-2194 or write to:
Superintendent, Manzanar National Historic Site
P.O. Box 426, Independence, CA 93526-0426
Visit our web site at www.nps.gov/manz.

“The National Park Service cares for special places
saved by the American people
so that all may experience our heritage.”